

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCLANT IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T ANKARA 4322

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, DPC, TU, MASS
SUBJ: MEETING TURKISH CONCERNS REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS

REF: USNATO 3051

1. IMPRESSION WE HAVE GAINED HERE, REINFORCED BY TURKISH REPRESENTATIONS IN NATO, IS THAT OBTAINING COMMUNICATIONS IUNES TO EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA INDEPENDENT OF GREEK LINKS IS A PRIMARY CONCERN OF BOTH GOT CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES. CONSEQUENTLY, PROVIDING GOT WITH U.S. SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT GESTURE WE COULD MAKE TO HELP COUNTER THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ARMS CUTOFF. WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL, HOWEVER, NOT TO PLAY WHAT IS PERHAPS OUR HIGHEST CARD PREMATURELY.

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2. SHOULD THE GOT FEEL COMPELLED BY THE LACK OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO CLOSE SOME U.S. INSTALLATIONS, SATCOM CHANNELS MIGHT SAVE KEY INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION STATIONS SUCH AS THOSE AT DIYARBAKIR (PIRINCLIK), WHICH HAS BEEN OFTEN MENTIONED AS A PRIMARY TARGET AND WHICH CURRENTLY HAS OUR ONLY SATCOM TERMINAL, AND AT SINOP, WHERE A SATCOM FACILITY IS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE. A SATCOM FACILITY NEARER ANKARA (WE UNDERSTAND A TERMINAL COULD BE ADDED TO COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION AT ELMADAG) MIGHT ALSO BE A VALUABLE BARGAINING COUNTER.

3. EVEN IN BEST CASE SITUATION OF EARLY LIFTING OF CONGRESSIONAL ARMS RESTRICTIONS, WE WILL CERTAINLY FACE TOUGH NEGOTIATION WITH GOT OVER FUTURE STATUS OF MANY OF OUR FACILITIES HERE. ACCESS TO SATCOM FACILITIES COULD, IF SURFACED AT RIGHT TIME, BE A KEY TRADE-OFF FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE WOULD WELCOME A CLOSELY HELD STUDY TO ASCERTAIN WHAT SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WE MIGHT EVENTUALLY FURNISH THE GOT. BECAUSE OF CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH, HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND AT THIS TIME AGAINST BROSHING WITH TURKS IN ANY MANNER THE POSSIBILITY OF A BILATERAL GESTURE OF THIS SORT. IN MEANTIME, WE HOPE SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND TO SECURE EARLY ACTION ON AMBASSADOR ERALP'S REQUEST FOR NATO COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS.
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